URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
OF MYNYDDISLWYN.

REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

SANITARY INSPECTOR

for the

YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1946.

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MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT.

Health Department,
Council Offices,
PONTLLANFRAITH,
Mon.

MR. CHAIRMAN, MRS. HARROLD & GENTLEMEN,

In submitting the Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1946, I am pleased to say that once again the area has been free from epidemics and the health of the community has been good.

The birth rate, established on the Registrar-General's figures, is 23.7; an increase on that of last year which was 21.02. The death rate is 8.8 while for the same period last year it was 12.01. The County rate for births is 19.9 and for deaths, 11.7.

The Infantile Mortality rate is 56 per 1,000 which is still high compared with that of the County's rate of 47.6; while that of England and Wales is 43; the chief cause being pre-maturity.

Diseases of the respiratory and circulatory systems are the chief causes of the other deaths.

Deaths due to Cancer number 8 compared with 15 last year: their ages being 45 years and over.

There were 2 deaths from Silicosis compared with 4 last year. Of the men suffering from certified Pneumoconiosis some find employment in the factories and others on outdoor work in the district.

26 cases of T.B. reported shows an increase compared with that of 19 last year also the 11 deaths are an increase on that of 5 last year.

Of notifiable diseases other than T.B. there were no deaths. Of Whooping Cough, a very disabling disease, there were 13 cases reported, 1 of which was admitted to hospital. These might have been prevented had a scheme, similar to Diphtheria Immunisation been instituted.

There were 4 Diphtheria cases notified, 3 being taken to hospital. It is estimated that 98.6% of children school age and under have been immunised. I would point out, however, that to obtain immunity these children should receive an injection every five years while at school.

There were no cases of measles while last there were 100. A number of cases of skin diseases were reported but all were treated at home.

During the year 100 prefabricated houses were completed and occupied but there are still many cases of overcrowding and a long list of applicants for houses.

This area has been scheduled for development. One factory was opened during the year and is already being extended. It employs 300 and may employ 750. Quite 50% of the present employees live outside the area.

Two other factories are in course of construction. The demand for houses is thus being increased while because of difficulty in getting repairs carried out and dilapidations etc. a number of houses should be condemned..

During the year great difficulty has been experienced in securing hospital accommodation for old people under social welfare and it is to be hoped that under the suggested arrangements there will be an end to this.

I take this opportunity to thank members of the Council, Mr. James and all who have co-operated in maintaining the health of the district.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (acres)	5,415.
Population 1946.	13,500
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1946) according to rate books.	3,315.
Rateable Value.	£45,131.
Product of penny rate.	£166.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

1. Public Health Officers of the Authority.	
A. Part-time Medical Officer of Health.	C.G. Mackay, M.B.
B. Full-time Sanitary and Meat Inspector.	P.S. James, M.R.S.I.,M.S.I.A.
2. Laboratory Facilities.	County Council.
3. Ambulance Facilities.	An ambulance is provided by private contract and used for general purposes other than for the removal of Infectious Diseases.
4. Nursing in the Home.	District Nursing Association.
5. Child Welfare: - Clinic and Treatment Centres.	County Council.
6. Hospitals (Public and Voluntary) which provide facilities for this District.	Royal Gwent, Newport. - General. Tredegar. - Maternity. Llanfrecha Grange. - Maternity. Lydia Beynon. - Maternity. There is one hospital in this District which is controlled by the Oakdale Colliery.
7. Tuberculosis: Treatment.	King Edward VII Welsh National Memorial Association.
8. Tuberculosis: After Care and Allowance.	County Council.
9. Venereal Disease: Treatment Centres and Tracing Contacts.	County Council.
10, Premature Infants and Illegitimate Children.	County Council.

WATER SUPPLY.

The main source of supply is obtained from the Abertillery and District Water Board. To ensure that it is satisfactory the Engineer to the Board has samples taken at regular intervals.

The following shows the results during the year: -

PIPE SUPPLIES.

		Number Satisfactory.	Number Unsatisfactory.
1.	(a) Bacteriological Exams. of Raw Water.	-	-
	(b) " " " Treated Water.	22	1
	(c) Chemical Analyses.		-

(The water supply to the District is not liable to plumbo solvent action)

2. (a) Number of houses supplied from public water mains.

(i) direct to the houses.	3190.
(ii) by means of stand pipes.	13.

(b) Approximate population supplied from public water mains.

(i) direct to the houses.	13,198.
(ii) by means of stand-pipes.	58.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

No action was taken in relation to the pollution of rivers and streams in the area; the chief pollution of the rivers in these industrial areas is, of course, the coal-dust and this is common in the areas through which the rivers run.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

The District is well served with efficient sewers, and practically all houses in the built-up areas are provided with water closets. There, remains, however a few outlying portions of the area, and houses on the hill-tops, which are not within a reasonable distance of the sewers; these are provided with pail-closets.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The usual three day collection of house refuse was carried out and the disposal is a centralized system of tipping, control of which is being carried out very satisfactorily.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS OF THE YEAR.

(a) Number of Inspections made during the year.	852.
(b) Number of notices served - Informal.	226.
Statutory.	17.

SHOPS.

During the year, the Sanitary Inspector made a survey of all the shops in the area in compliance with the Shops Act, 1934, and reports that nearly all of them are satisfactory. Where they were not in all respect in compliance, letters were sent to the occupier and the matters were immediately attended to.

SCHOOLS.

The schools in the District are supplied with a plentiful and good water supply direct from the mains of the Abertillery & District Water Board.

The sanitary conveniences, and the schools themselves are of modern construction; periodical inspections are carried out by your Sanitary Inspector and fairly high standards of cleanliness and order are maintained in and about the schools.

PUBLIC SWIMMING BATHS.

Extensive facilities are provided for sunbathing and games, and for Juvenile instruction. The schools made every use of the last facility during the past year. The total number of attendances of pupils who received such instruction was 1,587 and a large number acquired a certificate of proficiency.

The total number of bathers and spectators was as follows: -

Bathers (adults)	2,469
Bathers (juvenile) including school classes.	8,936.
Spectators (adults)	1,173.
Spectators (juvenile)	830.

MORTUARY.

Thirteen bodies were taken to your mortuary during the year. The pathologists and doctors who have the use of the mortuary are highly pleased with the facilities.

HOUSING.

1. INSPECTIONS OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

1. (a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts).	375.
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose.	521.
2. (a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under subheading (1) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulation, 1925.	1.
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose.	3.
3. (a)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.	1.
(b)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of thos referred to under the preceeding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.	226.

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT THE SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICE.

1. (a)	Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority.	199.

3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

A. Proceedings under Sections 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936. Nil.

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

1. Number of dwelling-houses in which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied. 17.

2. Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:

(a) by owners. 17.

(b) by Local Authority in default of owners. Nil.

C. Proceedings under Sections 11,13 of the Housing Act, 1936.

1. Number of dwelling-houses demolished in Pursuance of Demolition Orders. Nil.

D. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936. Nil.

HOUSING ACT, 1936. - OVERCROWDING.

In spite of the construction of a number of new houses the position with regard to the overcrowding in this District is still very acute.

INSPECTIONS AND SUPERVISION OF FOODS.

(a) MILK - The Sanitary Inspector visited the dairies, milkshops, and cow-sheds within the area during the year.

Special effort was made during the year to take samples of milk from all producers and retailers in the District (in conjunction with the County Health Department) for the purpose of bacteriological examination.

Visits were made frequently to the shops, bakehouses and other premises where foodstuffs are prepared for sale.

Vans and carts used for the hawking of the various foodstuffs were carefully watched and inspected by your Sanitary Inspector.

(b) ADULTERATION - The Council is not the Food and Drugs Authority.

(c) CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOODS.

All examinations under this heading are carried out by the Laboratories of the County Council.

(d) NUTRITION - No special work has been carried out by your Health Department, under this heading.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The number of skin diseases occurring in the District, which were dealt with accordingly, was not many comparatively.

The number of cases of Infectious Diseases that necessitated removal can be seen in the prepared table "Notifiable Diseases".

Very little difficulty was experienced in obtaining admission to Bedwellty Isolation Hospital.

A supply of Diphtheria Anti-toxin and Streptocide for puerperal cases is always kept at the Health Department of the Council Offices and the Medical Practitioners in the District make full use of this provision.

When notification of an Infectious Disease is received and enquiries reveal that there are school children in the home, intimation is always sent to the Head Teachers of the respective schools.

After any Infectious Disease all premises and bedding are properly dealt with.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Harrold & Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

CHARLES GORDON MACKAY, M.B.

Medical Officer of Health.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS)

DISEASE.	TOTAL.	HOSPITAL CASES.	TOTAL DEATHS.
Ophthalmia Neonatorium.	5	-	-
Scarlet Fever.	3	-	-
Diphtheria.	4	3	-
Puerperal Pyrexia.	-	-	-
Pneumonia.	1	-	-
Erysipelas.	-	-	-
Cerebro Spinal Fever.	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitus.	-	-	-
Whooping Cough.	13	1	-
Measles.	-	-	-
Chickenpox.	1	1	-

Of the four Diphtheria cases notified, two were not immunised, one had one injection and one was immunised in 1944.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

(a) PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS. No action has been taken by the Local Authority under Section 176, Public Health Act, 1936.

(b) TUBERCULOSIS. No action has been taken by the Local Authority under either of the following: -

Public Health (prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1925.

Public Health Act, 1936.

RATIO OF NON-NOTIFIED TUBERCULOSIS DEATHS TO TOTAL TUBERCULOSIS DEATHS.

Non-notified deaths 2: Notified deaths 9: Ratio 2 - 11.

	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
Age.	Pulmonary.		Non-Pul.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pul.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
10	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
15	1	2	-	-	-	3	-	-
20	1	5	-	1	-	1	-	-
25	2	3	2	-	2	2	-	-
35	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	-
65	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
	7	13	3	3	4	7	-	-

On receipt of notification of a case of Tuberculosis the Sanitary Inspector pays a visit to the house to ascertain conditions and to give a supply of disinfectant.

Where the patients are removed to hospital or sanatorium the Inspector again pays a visit, has the premises fumigated, and in some cases walls are stripped, and bedding etc., destroyed. In the absence of a steam disinfector bedding and other clothes cannot be treated as effectively as desired.

VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING, 1946.

Name of District - MYNYDDISLWYN U.D.C.

Population.	Nett Births		Total births belonging to the District.	
	Number.	Rate.	Number.	Rate.
13,500	208	15.4	321.	23.7.

Total Births Belonging to the District.					
Legitimate.		Illegitimate.		Still Births.	
No.	Rate.	No.	Rate.	No.	Rate.
305	22.5	16	1.18.	10	.74.

Nett deaths registered in the District.		Transferable Deaths.	
Number.	Rate.	Non residents registered in the District.	Residents not in the District.
96	7.11	-	24

Total deaths belonging to the District.			
Under 1 yr.		All ages.	
No.	Rate.	No.	Rate.
18	56.	120.	8.8

Total deaths under 1 year, belonging to the District.			
Legitimate.		Illegitimate.	
Number.	Rate.	Number.	Rate.
18	56.	Nil.	-

INFANTILE MORTALITY, 1946.

NETT DEATHS FROM STATED CAUSES AT AGES UNDER ONE YEAR.

CAUSES.	Under 1 week.	1 - 4 weeks.	1 mth. - 12 mths.	Total.
Convulsions.	-	-	1	1
Asthenia.	-	-	1	1
Gastro Entoritis.	-	-	3	3
Prematurity.	8	-	-	8
Broncho-Pneumonia.	-	1	1	2
Bronchitis.	-	-	-	-
	8	1	6	15

Nett deaths registered in the District under 1 year.	
Number.	Rate.
15	72.1

CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT DEATH DURING THE YEAR, 1946.

Name of District - MYNYDDISLWYN U.D.C.

CAUSES.	Nett Deaths at the subjoining ages of "Residents" occurring within the District(s)								TOTAL DEATHS IN THE DISTRICT.
	Under 1 yr.	1 and under 2.	2 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 45.	45 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	
All Causes (Certified) (Uncertified)									
Meningitis.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cancer.	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	4	8
Arterio Sclerosis.	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	4	7
Heart.	-	-	-	-	-	1	6	25	32
Rheumatic Fever.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bronchitis.	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	2	8
Gastro Enteritis.	3	-	1	-	-	1	-	2	7
Pneumonia.	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2
Broncho-Pneumonia.	1	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	5
Senile Decay.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	5
Influenza.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Exophthalmic Goitre.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Asthenia.	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2
Pernicious Anaemia.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Premature Birth.	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8
Nephritis.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Convulsions.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Silico Anthracosis.	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
Other Defined Causes.	-	-	-	1	2	3	-	2	8
TOTAL.	15	-	1	1	2	7	24	46	96

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.

I. CHILD POPULATION IMMUNISED DURING THE PAST TWELVE MONTHS.

Number of children (including temporary residents) who completed the full course of immunisation between 1st Jan., and 31st December, 1946. 297.

II. CHILD POPULATION IMMUNISED TO DATE.

Total estimated number of the children resident in this area who are considered to have been immunised as at 31st Dec., 1946. 3502.

III. PERCENTAGE IMMUNISED TO DATE. 98.6

Comparitive Table Showing Cases of Diphtheria in this District since 1935.

Year.	Number notified.	Deaths.	Hospital Cases.
1935.	29	1	14
1936.	49	1	15
1937.	58	-	19
1938.	51	1	18
1939.	42	2	16
1940.	32	1	5
1941.	18	-	10
1942.	10	1	10
1943.	15	-	11
1944.	7	-	4
1945.	1	-	1
1946.	4	-	3

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

Health Department,
Council Offices,
PONTLLANFRAITH,
Mon.

MR. CHAIRMAN, MRS. HARROLD & GENTLEMEN,

I am again privileged to submit my report for the year ending 31st December, 1946.

NOTICES SERVED.

Informal	199
Statutory	17
Inspections made	521

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

Number of slaughterhouses on register.	3
Number of visits made.	Nil.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MEAT - Since the Ministry of Food brought about the centralisation of slaughtering, it was not found necessary to pay visits to any of the private slaughterhouses in the District, as all food animals were slaughtered at the "Buttry Hatch" Slaughterhouse, Maesycwmmer. However, inspections to the Meat Purveyors' Shops had to be carried out with the same care as in the past.

Full advantage was again taken by persons who reared pigs on cottage premises, or small holdings, and a large number were killed thereon after due notice of intended slaughter in accordance with the stipulations of the Ministry of Health Circular (604), the special provisions granted by the Council and in accordance with an order made by the Ministry of Food.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF MILK.

A large percentage of milk distributed in this District is untreated milk and sold direct to the consumers by small farmers who are producer-retailers.

By arrangement with the County Council Laboratory, samples of milk were taken and submitted for bacteriological, methylene blue and phosphatase tests. The samples were taken at farm premises, in the streets and at the schools in the District. The results of a number conformed to a satisfactory standard but others were not quite so good. Letters were sent to the offenders and repeat samples were taken which showed a great improvement. With regard to innoculation for tuberclo bacillus, none of the tests proved positive.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS.

Number of cowsheds on register	46
Number of retail purveyors on register.	42
Number of wholesale purveyors on register.	14.
Inspections of cowsheds and dairies.	103.

UNSOUND MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

The following articles were surrendered and destroyed during the year as being unfit for human consumption: -

CANNED GOODS ETC.

Butter	165 lbs.	Condensed Milk	6 tins.
Bacon	10 lbs.	Evaporated Milk	65 tins.
Cheese	6 lbs.	Nestles Milk	4 tins.
Beef	74 lbs.	Stewed Stake	10 tins.
Luncheon Meat	40 lbs.	Peas	8 tins.
Beans	60 tins.	Chutney	2 bottles.
Pilchards	15 tins.	Prunes	12 lbs.
Jam	6 tins.	Raisins	14 lbs.
Soup	2 tins.	Tomatoes	30 lbs.
Salmon	8 tins.	W. & V. Rations	5 tins.
Meat Vegetables	3 tins.	Treacle	2 tins.
Ideal Milk	3 tins.	Spam	5 tins,

FRIED FISH.

The premises that come under the above heading were visited regularly, and in no instance was it found necessary to serve an informal notice.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Number of cases of Infectious Diseases notified: -

Scarlet Fever	3
Diphtheria	4
Tuberculosis - all forms ...	26

CINEMAS.

Number in the area	2
Inspections made	5
Notices served	-

HOUSING.

Overcrowded houses and houses with two or more families are still with us. These conditions are generally found in the old traditional terraced houses and houses in little hamlets situated on mountain sides where there are no public water supplies, sewerage systems and no provision made for the collection of house refuse. In fact some of these houses have outlived the building material put into them and are further aggravated by the shortage of labour and building material, obviously lowering the standard of repairs.

TENTS, VANS, AND SHEDS.

There was no trouble with regard to persons erecting this type of building for human habitation but we were faced with the position where army huts were occupied by squatters. The Welsh Board of Health granted the Council permission to put in electric light, water supply and sanitation. The conditions at these premises were not satisfactory.

INCREASE OF RENTS AND MORTGAGE, (INTEREST) RESTRICTION ACTS.

One application was made for a certificate under the above Act during the year.

ERADICATION OF BUGS.

Number of	a.1. - Council Houses infested	5
	b.2. - Council Houses disinfested	5
	a.1. - Other houses infested	6
	b.2. - Other houses disinfested	6

The methods employed for freeing the infested houses from bed bugs is by stripping, spraying, and in some instances the painters blow-lamp was used. To assist private householders, sprays and tins of fluid were provided by the Council.

Disinfestation is sometimes carried out in the Council Houses by direct labour, and in other cases this work is undertaken by the owners or occupiers.

COLLIERY SPOILBANKS (TIPS) LIABLE TO SPONTANEOUS COMBUSTION.

In the south part of the District emission of dust and grit and the burning of a colliery spoilbank gave rise to a considerable number of complaints. The Council was very much disturbed over this matter and the Welsh Board of Health was asked to assist. The Ministry of Health's Alkaline Inspector visited the site and the Colliery Management later installed a comprehensive water spraying system which had a cooling effect on the tip and kept the flickering gas flames and spots of red glow at a very low ebb.

During the war period there was a general relaxation but the matter is again one of public health interest and local authorities are urged to keep under regular inspection all spoilbanks which are brought under their control, and to insist that means which have been furnished to that end should be properly maintained and used. Power to do so is invested in the local authorities by the Public Health Act 1936 Section 92 which is strengthened by the Coal Mine Refuse Act 1939.

INFESTATION ORDER S.R. & O. 1943 NO. 680.

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT, 1919.

The refuse tip, salvage store and other Council property was visited and properly treated by the Rodent Operative with good results. With temporary assistance the maintenance treatment of foul and surface sewers was also treated. During the period of hostilities when it was necessary to store food in all kinds of places rats became a great menace not only because of the damage but also because of the danger to the health of the public. Since, however, this work has been transferred to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and they work jointly with the local authorities for the reduction of all vermin and pests generally.

The following is a report of the treatments of foul and surface sewers:

1st Maintenance.

1. Total number of manholes in foul and connected systems:	849
2. Bait base and poison used:	Sausage Rusk and Zinc Phosphide.
3. Number of manholes baited:	783
4. Number of manholes showing prebait take:	16
5. Number of manholes showing complete prebait take:	Nil.
6. Schemes of baiting used (e.g. consecutive days or 1st 3rd and 5th days):	Consecutive Days.

2nd Maintenance.

1. Total number of manholes in foul and connected systems: 849
2. Bait base and poison used: Sausage Rusk and Asenic.
3. Number of manholes baited: 623
4. Number of manholes showing prebait take: 14
5. Number of manholes showing complete prebait take: Nil
6. Schemes of baiting used (e.g. consecutive days or 1st 3rd and 5th days): Consecutive Days.

Appreci.tion is due to Mr. Cunningham, Infestation Officer, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries for his co-operation in this work.

INSPECTION OF FACTORIES.

	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Occupiers Prosecuted.
Factories with mechanical power.	28	3	-
Factories without mechanical power.	16	3	-
Other premises.	7	-	-
TOTAL	51	6	-

DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars.	Number of Defects.			No. of defects in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted.
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	
Want of Cleanliness.	2	2		
Overcrowding.				
Unreasonable Temperature.				
Inadequate Ventilation.				
Ineffective drainage of floors.				
San. Cons: -				
insufficient.				
unsuitable or defective	4	4		
not separate for sexes.				
TOTAL	6	6		

I am, Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Harrold & Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

PERCY S. JAMES.

Sanitary Inspector.